## IN THE CLAIMS:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (New) A system, comprising:

      a first computing device and a second computing device;

      a first storage medium and a second storage medium;

wherein the first computing device is configured to:

      initiate a backup operation of a set of data;

      send a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data to the second

            computing device, wherein the logical representation includes a first mapping

            of a portion of the frozen image to a first region of the first storage medium;

            and

wherein the second computing device is configured to complete the backup operation using

      the frozen image, wherein said completing includes:

            receiving the logical representation;

            prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining whether

            the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid; and

      in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid,

            obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image;

            accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium

               using the updated mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage

medium.

42. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein said completing includes:

in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid,

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium

using the first mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage

medium.

43. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first computing device is further

configured to associate a configuration identifier with the frozen image, and wherein said

determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid

comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged.

44. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the updated mapping maps the portion of

the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

45. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the logical representation includes a chain

of two or more store extents including a logical storage extent and a physical storage extent.

46. (New) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the first and second storage media are

linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and wherein the second

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computing device is configured to use input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

47. (New) The system as recited in clam 1, wherein the first and second storage media are linked to the second computing device via a SAN, and wherein the second computing device is configured to use error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.

48. (New) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions, wherein the instructions are computer executable to:

    initiate a backup operation of a set of data from a first computing device;

    send a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data from the first computing device to a second computing device, wherein the logical representation includes a first mapping of a portion of the frozen image to a first region of a first storage medium; and

    complete the backup operation from the second computing device using the frozen image, wherein said completing includes:

        receiving the logical representation;

        prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid; and

        in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid,

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obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image;

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first

storage medium using the updated mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to a second

storage medium.

49. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein said completing

includes:

in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid,

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium

using the first mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage

medium.

50. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the instructions are

further computer executable to associate a configuration identifier with the frozen image, and

wherein said determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains

valid comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged.

51. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the updated mapping

maps the portion of the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

52. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the logical representation includes a chain of two or more store extents including a logical storage extent and a physical storage extent.

53. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the first and second storage media are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and wherein the instructions are further computer executable to use input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

54. (New) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the first and second storage media are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and. wherein the instructions are further computer executable to use error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.

55. (New) A method comprising:

    initiating a backup operation of a set of data from a first computing device;

    sending a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data from the first

        computing device to a second computing device, wherein the logical

        representation includes a first mapping of a portion of the frozen image to a

        first region of a first storage medium; and

completing the backup operation from the second computing device using the frozen

image, wherein said completing includes:

receiving the logical representation;

prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining

whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image

remains valid; and

in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid,

obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image;

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first

storage medium using the updated mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to a second

storage medium.


56. (New) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein said completing includes:

in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid,

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium

using the first mapping; and

backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage

medium.


57. (New) The method as recited in claim 55, further comprising:

associating a configuration identifier with the frozen image;

wherein said determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged.

58. (New) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the updated mapping maps the portion of the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

59. (New) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first and second storage media are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), further comprising:

    using input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

60. (New) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first and second storage media are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), further comprising:

    using error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.